

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of August 8, 2003, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the patent to Laude '723.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the patent to Kroll '343.

Finally, it is noted that claims 12-17 and 20 are allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims 18 and 19, Applicant has canceled these claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claim 14 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to correct the informality.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 10, 2003:

Klaus P. Stoffel

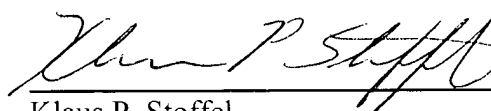
Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative


Signature

November 10, 2003

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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